

TWO FAMILIES

by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SMALL TOWN STREET - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: The flashing Mars light on the roof of an ambulance as it speeds down the street.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Judith, late 30s, and a successful realtor, organized, reasonable, sits on a couch with her pudgy adopted 9-year-old Chinese daughter, Lily, who eats from a bag of candy. Next to Lily is Judith's sister, Susan, mid-30s.

Unlike Judith, Susan is a bit of a loose cannon. Recently divorced from a man who turned out to be gay, Susan can be caustic. Her emotions are on the surface.

On a couch across from them is a Man reading the Bible. Susan watches chubby Lily eat candy then turns to Judith.

SUSAN

(sotto to Judith) I read fat girls start puberty two years earlier.

JUDITH

Not this again.

SUSAN

(softly) I'm just saying. She's got enough arm fat to give me cramps.

INT. HOSPITAL RECEPTION AREA - MOMENTS LATER

David 1, (the reason for the '1' after David's name will soon become clear) Judith's younger brother and Susan's twin brother, enters through a revolving door. He is wearing a Lycra bike outfit and a helmet with a tiny rear view mirror. He approaches the Receptionist. David is a college professor, single and a bike enthusiast. He was unathletic as a child and now overcompensates.

DAVID 1

I understand David Campbell was brought into Emergency.

RECEPTIONIST

Yes. And your name?

DAVID 1

David Campbell.

RECEPTIONIST

We already have one of those.

DAVID 1

Yes, that's my dad.

RECEPTIONIST

You're saying you're the son, right?

DAVID 1

I am the son.

RECEPTIONIST

Yeah, a David Campbell already came by asking about David Campbell.

DAVID 1

How's that possible? I'm David Campbell.

POV: We see Susan approaching through the mirror on David 1's helmet. He suddenly spins to greet her and it surprises her.

SUSAN

My God, don't do that.

DAVID 1

Have you seen Dad?

SUSAN

No.

DAVID 1

Where's Jude?

SUSAN

In the waiting room.

DAVID 1

(to the Receptionist) Can we see someone from Security in the waiting room, please?

The Receptionist rolls her eyes and reaches for the phone as David 1 and Susan walk toward the waiting room.

DAVID 1 (CONT'D)

There's another David Campbell here to see Dad. Someone's trying to scam us.

SUSAN

Scam us? In what way?

DAVID 1

I don't know. But that's how a scam works. You don't know you're being scammed and then boom, some guy with your name and social security number murders an art dealer in Manhattan.

SUSAN

You're watching those reruns of "Law And Order" again at the gym, aren't you?

DAVID 1

No. Once maybe.

They push through the doors into...

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Judith gets up and hugs David 1.

DAVID 1

Have you heard anything?

JUDITH

No.

A Nurse leans in through the door from the ER.

NURSE

David Campbell will be coming out now.

She closes the door and is gone.

JUDITH

Oh, well good. It can't be that bad.

Judith, David 1 and Susan move toward the door. The Man with the Bible also moves toward the door.

DAVID 1

(to Man) We're here to pick up our Dad.

MAN

So am I.

DAVID 1
Our dad is David Campbell.

MAN
My dad is David Campbell.

David 1 nods at this, takes a couple of steps back and then jumps on the Man's back getting him in a half-nelson wrestling hold. The Man easily peels David 1 off and sends him flying into the couch.

JUDITH
What the hell do you think you're doing?

A Security Guard, late 20s and big, enters from the Reception area.

SECURITY GUARD
What's going on?

DAVID 1
He's pretending to be me!

MAN
I don't even know who you are!

DAVID 1
I'm David Campbell!

MAN
That's insane. I'm David Campbell!

DAVID 1
There's two sides to the criminal justice system, pal, and you're about to get a taste of both of 'em.

Irene, in her early 30s and distraught, enters from Reception. She is the Man's (David 2 from now on) sister. Irene runs to David 2 and hugs him. David 2 -- athletic, affable -- is trying to live righteously.

Irene is a little bit of a nut, an animal lover, who dotes on the neediest, but not necessarily most deserving, creatures. She is also a Daddy's Girl.

IRENE
Oh David, is Daddy okay?

The Security Guard looks at David 1 suspiciously.

DAVID 2
See? I'm David Campbell.

SUSAN
(re. David 1) This is David Campbell!

With that, David Campbell Sr., in a neck brace, early 60s, is wheeled in. David Sr. hates to disappoint people; he lives to be liked. And he looks so completely normal, not sexy or slick. Think of John Mahoney in Hagar slacks. He's wearing a windbreaker, has a paunch, gets his hair cut by a barber. While the others argue Irene sees David Sr. and runs to him.

IRENE
Oh, Daddy. You're okay.

Everyone stops and stares as Irene hugs David Sr.

SUSAN
Daddy?

David Sr. sees Judith, David 1 and Susan.

DAVID SR.
Judith, Susan, David, please.

They move toward David Sr.

IRENE
You know these people?

A young Social Worker, a woman in her mid- 20s, clutching a notebook, enters from the Reception area.

SOCIAL WORKER
I'm a social worker here. Are you David Campbell?

All three Davids answer, "Yes," simultaneously.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)
I see. (to David Sr.) Mr. Campbell, the police found two wallets in your car. Two licenses, one Appleton, one Rhinelander, two sets of credit cards, different family photos in each...

JUDITH
Dad?

DAVID SR.
I'm sorry. I... uh...

DAVID 2
You had another secret family?

SERIES OF SHOTS:

The camera circles catching the families' stunned faces.

CLOSE ON: Judith's face then a quick FLASHBACK. A younger looking David Sr. from a younger Judith's POV.

YOUNGER DAVID SR.

I know it's your high school graduation but I'll definitely be at your college graduation.

CLOSE ON: David 2's face and another FLASHBACK.

YOUNGER DAVID SR. (CONT'D)

I hear you had a great game. Weather held me up. (beat) It wasn't bad weather but it did hold me up.

CLOSE ON: Susan's face and a FLASHBACK. David Sr. addresses her and David 1.

YOUNGER DAVID SR. (CONT'D)

You'd be surprised how many Daddies miss every other Christmas.

The siblings from the two families stare at each other. David Sr. seems like an unlikely bigamist. The glasses, the beige windbreaker, he seems like... your dad.

DAVID 1

I'd like to think this explains why my relationships haven't worked.

DAVID SR.

I'm really, really sorry.

IRENE

Oh my God, Daddy, where's the Anemic Baby? Was he in the car with you?

JUDITH

A baby? You have a baby?

DAVID SR.

He's the youngest of the --

From behind them, Greg, AKA the Anemic Baby, enters from the ER. He is 20, in sweat pants, carrying a pile of Anime books and slurping a Big Gulp. The Anemic Baby is the ultimate slacker, no job, over-eater, comic book enthusiast. His family lets him skate because of his many phantom ailments. Irene rushes to him.

GREG
I'm here. I'm okay.

JUDITH
(to Greg) Do you have this Anemic Baby?

GREG
I am the Anemic Baby.

IRENE
He was born with a hole in his heart.

SUSAN
And I assume they plugged it up. He's
not a f--ing baby.

DAVID 2
(to Susan) Can we clean up the language?

Susan moves menacingly toward David 2.

SUSAN
We? Can we clean up the language? I
don't know. Can we?

Judith jumps to Susan's defense. Irene joins David 2 and
it's bedlam again. AD LIB FIGHTING.

SECURITY GUARD
We're gonna need another guard.

INT. SOCIAL WORKER'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

David Sr., Susan, David 1, David 2, Judith, Lily, Irene
and Greg are crammed into the office while the Social
Worker tries to make sense of the situation.

SOCIAL WORKER
Now while I don't have a pamphlet that
deals directly with a man having two
families... I do have one that might...

She pulls out a pamphlet and hands it to David 2.

DAVID 2
(reading the title) "So Now You've Got
Pancreatic Cancer"?

SOCIAL WORKER
Might help you deal with the
anger/sadness dynamic you're no doubt
feeling.

(MORE)

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

In your case it might be cathartic if you substitute father wherever you see the words pancreatic cancer. Here's one on losing a breast. Sexually Transmitted... "So Now You've Got Restless Leg Syndrome"... Maybe you should just take all of these.

There is a silence. Greg slurps loudly from a nearly empty Big Gulp. Susan glares at him.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

David.

All three Davids look up.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

David Senior. The police say they can't charge you with bigamy since both of your wives are deceased. Do you want to share a little of what you're feeling right now?

SUSAN

Oh please.

DAVID 2

Let him talk.

DAVID SR.

Susan's angry. She's always wanted the feeling stuff from me and I don't do it that well. That's what your mothers did. But if you want to know the truth, I'm relieved. There I said it. The pressure, the travel. I didn't know how I could keep paying taxes on two houses. (choking up) And I...

David Sr. wells up with tears.

IRENE

He's crying. (to Susan) You made him cry.

SUSAN

He should cry. He had two f--ing wives.

DAVID 2

As a deacon of my church, I cannot stay in the room with this kind of language.

SUSAN

Oh, bla bla, bla. There were only two wives, right, Dad? I mean, some waitress from Fond du Lac isn't gonna come bursting through the door, is she?

DAVID SR.

No. And that'll be enough of that tone, Susan.

SOCIAL WORKER

Maybe we should go around and say something about ourselves.

JUDITH

I'm Judith. My husband Ross and I have Lily here who is nine. I'm in real estate.

SOCIAL WORKER

Good. This is good.

GREG

(laconically) I'm Greg. Kinda seeing this girl, you know, hanging out... Anime is a passion... definitely. Graphic novels. Sort of the Golden Age of graphic novels now which you no doubt already knew. No disrespect meant there.

DAVID SR.

I'm David Senior.

DAVID 2

You're the one we all know, Dad.

SOCIAL WORKER

Would you like to say something, David Senior?

DAVID SR.

There were a million times I thought of telling your mothers... Sometimes I think I'm an alcoholic.

JUDITH

Well let me put your mind at ease. You're not. You just don't want anyone to be mad at you. You're avoiding confrontation with us and, more importantly, with yourself.

SOCIAL WORKER
 (blown away) Wow. That is uh... very
 insightful, Judith. Really great stuff.
 I should have said that.

Greg slurps again and Susan glares at him.

DAVID 1
 Can we clear up the three Davids thing?
 Because I didn't get a PhD in Comparative
 Studies to be called Dave.

SOCIAL WORKER
 Okay. Good. Let's talk about the name --

DAVID 2
 Dad, we have an AA meeting at our church
 that Reverend Hank runs. He is super
 fun. He's like a born-again Jimmy
 Buffett.

JUDITH
 Reverend? Aren't you Catholic?

The siblings all turn to David Sr.

DAVID SR.
 Your mothers were very passionate about
 their faiths. (changing the subject) You
 know, I'm interested in what David...

The two other Davids look up.

DAVID 1
 Which David? Do you see what a problem
 this is? Were boys' names that hard?

IRENE
 Stop picking on him!!

DAVID SR.
 (to Irene) Mopsy, relax.

SUSAN
 Mopsy? You practically gave her my
 nickname?

Susan stands and runs from the room crying.

DAVID SR.
 (calling to Susan) No, no, I called her
 Mopsy. You're still my Flopsy.

SOCIAL WORKER

(to the rest) You know what I think? I think there's a lot of healing that needs to happen here.

EXT. THE STREET - LATER - PULL BACK TO REVEAL

Judith's Volvo is followed by a Nissan with Irene and Greg in it. Behind that is Susan's Ford. Then a yellow Corvette with David 2. Finally, a ways behind, comes David 1. He is on a recumbent bike.

INT. IRENE'S NISSAN

Irene and Greg take in the neighborhood. It is beautiful; rows of large, elegant, old houses.

IRENE

This is sure a nicer town than ours. Look at these houses. I guess Dad was living the good life with their mom.

INT. JUDITH'S CAR - SAME TIME

Judith is driving. David Sr. sits in the other seat.

JUDITH

Why couldn't you just have an affair like everyone else?

DAVID SR.

I didn't think that was fair to your mother. I wanted to make an honest woman of her.

JUDITH

You married their mother first? And then got Mom pregnant? With me?

DAVID SR.

(sincerely) Sweetie, I loved your mother very much. Please don't blame yourself for the second marriage.

Judith stares daggers through David Sr.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY - THE NEXT DAY

Susan and Judith are sitting at a table. Judith is wearing a real estate broker's jacket. David 1 is there in full bike gear.

SUSAN

(to David 1) Remember the time our swim team went to that meet in Rhinelander and we ended up at that party? The other family is from Rhinelander.

DAVID 1

Yeah. So?

SUSAN

I made out with a guy, and I don't remember what he looked like. I could have made out with my own brother!

There is a beat of silence. Everyone at another table looks at Susan, then goes back to what they were doing.

DAVID 1

I'll tell you what gets me. This double David thing. The other David should go by Dave or David Two.

JUDITH

Your name is not the problem.

DAVID 1

I'm publishing an article this month. What if someone thinks he's me? What if there are movie rights?

SUSAN

For an article in the Annals of Comparative Constructivism?

DAVID 1

Some of my colleagues have had idea pieces optioned. You think something like "You, Me And Dupree" just appears out of thin air?

JUDITH

I think we should start with the larger issues.

(MORE)

JUDITH (CONT'D)

Ross and I talked last night about the repercussions of "the illegitimate family" and what we should do. So this morning I drew up what I am calling "a protocol document."

DAVID 1

You are not.

JUDITH

What?

DAVID 1

Calling it a protocol document.

SUSAN

(reading) Holidays. Distribution of assets. Public face. What's public face?

JUDITH

I don't want us to look foolish.

SUSAN

That ship has sailed for me. It's bad enough everyone knows about Gary.

JUDITH

Nobody could have known your husband would turn out to be gay. Or was already gay or... whatever.

David 1 snorts.

SUSAN

Don't start, David.

DAVID 1

C'mon. The guy sewed his own Halloween costumes. Halloween. A grown man.

SUSAN

It was a gladiator costume, David.

David 1 and Judith stare at Susan.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Sure, in retrospect a gladiator seems gay...

JUDITH

Anyway, Daddy's been spending on two families, so he's pretty broke.

(MORE)

JUDITH (CONT'D)

He's got to sell the other house. See under "Distribution of Assets".

DAVID 1

Sell the other house?

JUDITH

He can't afford both.

DAVID 1

No, but --

JUDITH

Someone has to take charge here and Dad is not going to do it. Do you want him to sell our house? The house we grew up in? How would that look? It would look like he likes them better, that's how.

SUSAN

Wait a second, if they sell their house, does that mean we're stuck with them on holidays and stuff?

JUDITH

No. Apparently, the other David has moved near here and lives in some ridiculous pre-fab McMansion thing in the Indian Creek development. Is anyone listening to me? We have to protect our family home. Right now, we're what I'm calling the "primary family". We don't want to be the "illegitimate family". We need to stake our claim. And we start doing that by getting him to sell what I am calling the "illegal house".

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - DAY

David Sr. stands at his seat addressing a sparsely attended AA meeting. A Woman, mid-50s, with teased hair and a lascivious smile sits next to him.

DAVID SR.

I guess it was the seventies and the sexual revolution had passed me by and a second wife seemed... I mean, I married her; I'm not bohemian... and so while I'm no drinking man necessarily, I think I share some of the same problems as you folks. I think I need a support group of some kind.

(MORE)

DAVID SR. (CONT'D)

I searched on-line for a group of men who had secret wives but there were only news accounts of two others like me. One guy in Oklahoma and a guy in Ohio who had three wives.

He spins his finger next to his ear, making the crazy sign.

DAVID SR. (CONT'D)

Yeah, koo-koo. But anyway, I thank you for indulging me and I look forward to your comments.

He sits and the Woman next to him leans over.

WOMAN

You're a bad boy, aren't you?

DAVID SR.

I made some mistakes but I'm a good man.

WOMAN

Uh uh. You're bad... to the bone.

As she says this, she slips her hand on his ass and he jumps up, frightened and surprised. He doesn't see himself this way at all.

INT. DMV - DAY

David 1 is at the counter talking to a sullen Motor Vehicles Clerk.

DAVID 1

No, I'm just adding the Roman numeral one to my name.

CLERK

So the number one?

DAVID 1

The Roman numeral one. It looks like a capital "I". So the license will read David Campbell the First.

CLERK

So you want the words "the first" after your name.

DAVID 1

Is there a supervisor here?

CLERK

He's here, but I'm not allowed to disturb him when he's eating his burrito bowl.

EXT. SECOND FAMILY'S HOUSE - DAY

Judith and David Sr. pull up and get out of Judith's car in front of a small, worn, wood-frame bungalow in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, a small fishing and hunting town. There is a lake across the road. Judith is taking notes.

DAVID SR.

There's a new roof. And this garden was all Mary's doing. She really had a green thumb. We planted one dogwood each time a child was born.

JUDITH

So there should be six, but there are only three. Oh look, here's Ross.

Ross, Judith's husband, pulls up in his car. Late 50s, Ross has blown-dry hair below his ears. There's a gloss to his skin as though he's had a chemical peel. His teeth are super white.

ROSS

Hello, honey. Dave. I was just getting the Platte survey from your darling little town hall.

He goes and kisses Judith.

JUDITH

(sotto) Honey, you left your teeth whitening trays in.

ROSS

Yikes.

Ross turns and pulls the trays out of his mouth. A neighbor next door walks over.

DAVID SR.

Hi, Ruth. This is my daughter from... my other family, Judith and her husband.

RUTH

Hi. (to David Sr.) Call me.

DAVID SR.

You're married.

RUTH

Sort of.

Ruth winks and walks away.

DAVID SR.

Happened at the AA meeting too.

ROSS

Have you thought of journaling? It's really helped me.

JUDITH

Helped you do what, honey?

ROSS

(at a loss) Well... before I wasn't journaling and... (happily) ...now I am.

Dad enters the house. Judith holds Ross back.

JUDITH

Don't do any of that "Hmmm-ing". Just encourage him to sell. Do you understand the plan this time?

ROSS

I understood it last time. It wasn't my fault the client asked about percolation of ground water. Who the hell's ready for a question about ground water?

INT. SECOND FAMILY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The kitchen is circa 1970s, with avocado green appliances. There is an old fashioned clock on the wall, shaped like a cat with a tail that sways as the clock ticks.

ROSS

Hmmmm. So you're thinking about selling?

JUDITH

(annoyed) He can't afford not to.

Ross picks up a picture of David Sr. and Mother 2.

ROSS

So this is your other wife, huh?

Judith looks at the picture.

JUDITH

She's pretty. (looking more carefully)
Is that Lake Kongonsa? You took them to
Lake Kongonsa too?

DAVID SR.

You guys enjoyed it so much I wanted to
take the other family there. Maybe one
thing I'm guilty of is too much love.

ROSS

(innocently) Huh, too much love. Sort of
the definition of bigamy, isn't it?

JUDITH

So we can list the house by tomorrow.

DAVID SR.

I don't know.

JUDITH

Do you want to go into bankruptcy? You
say yes and we can have a virtual tour of
this place up on our --

Ross clears his throat and gives his head a shake.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

Maybe no virtual tour. But we sell it
and you'll be two-hundred thousand --

Ross gives his head another shake.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

A hundred thousand dollars richer.

DAVID SR.

Yeah, I guess that makes sense.

JUDITH

Dad, you need to promise me that you are
going to put your life in order and sell
this house.

DAVID SR.

I know, I know. I see the need.

Judith takes out the papers.

DAVID SR. (CONT'D)

You're good at this, Judy, aren't you?

JUDITH

Yeah.

DAVID SR.

It might be a good profession for Irene, too, don't you think? I mean, she'd need some help getting her real estate license.

JUDITH

You want me to tutor the half-sister I met two days ago in real estate?

DAVID SR.

It'd be a heck of an olive branch to the other family.

INT./EXT. A YELLOW CORVETTE (DAVID 2'S CAR) - DAY

David 2 sees David 1 riding and pulls his car next to him, keeping a slow pace so they can talk.

DAVID 2

Hi, I'm looking for Elm.

DAVID 1

It's over two blocks.

David 2 keeps driving slowly next to David 1.

DAVID 2

It's me, the other David Campbell. I don't really need to know where Elm is. I was joking.

DAVID 1

How is that funny?

DAVID 2

Well, it's not ha-ha funny. It's my way of reaching out to you emotionally. I used to be a coke head. My wife and I met in a bar and then found God on a cruise to Sandals Resort. How 'bout you?

DAVID 1

Um, I uh...

DAVID 2

Do you like sports?

DAVID 1
I like non-contact boxing and water polo.

DAVID 2
I said sports.

DAVID 1
I know.

DAVID 2
(louder) Do you like sports?

DAVID 1
I just -- Watch out.

David 2 didn't see that the shoulder was running out on the road. Suddenly David 1 is forced off the road and disappears into a ditch.

EXT. A DITCH BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

David 2 is helping David 1.

DAVID 1
Let go, David. David Campbell. Just so you know, I've been to the DMV and some time in the next six weeks the state of Wisconsin will make it official: I'm David Campbell... the First.

DAVID 2
Look, this really seems to bug you. I'll be Dave. I don't care.

DAVID 1
Oh. (happily) Well, thank you.

EXT. THE SECOND FAMILY'S HOUSE - DAY

There is a real estate sign on the front lawn.

INT. THE SECOND FAMILY'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Irene is there with Greg.

IRENE
I know exactly what she is up to. Judith's trying to take the position that they're the first family. That's why she wants him to sell this house.

GREG

You don't even seem sad.

IRENE

I'm not sad. The other house is much nicer.

GREG

But where am I going? I told you I just got kicked out of school. Again.

IRENE

This is our opportunity to step up. Go pack up your inhalers and your anti-inflammatory creams, Greggie, we're moving to the other house tomorrow.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. A STREET - DAY

Susan's car drives along.

INT./EXT. SUSAN'S CAR - SAME TIME

Susan is driving with her son, Jared, 12, in the back seat.

SUSAN

Here's the thing, honey. Grandpa's secret family is a little like Daddy liking men. We didn't want to know, but we had to know, eventually.

As Susan drives, she passes a city park where a large church picnic is taking place.

SUSAN'S POV - CHURCH PICNIC IN A PARK

There is a large banner that says "Praise the Lord" and another banner that says "First Congregation Fellowship Picnic". There is a vigorous volleyball game going on.

Susan sees David 2 spike the ball and his team cheer. He goes to high five a fellow player and Susan does a double take.

That player is Susan's brother, David 1.

JARED

Is that Uncle David?

Susan's head swings around and she sees that the two David's are back slapping and laughing together. She runs her car off the road until the sound of it scrapping a short hedge brings her to her senses.

EXT. PARK/CHURCH PICNIC - MOMENTS LATER

Susan walks over to the picnic. David 1 sees her, waves and comes over.

DAVID 1

Hey.

SUSAN
David, what are you doing?

DAVID 1
Killing the Tuesday Night Youth Bible
Fellowship in volleyball.

David 2 waves from the food table.

DAVID 2
Hello, Susan! Chicken?

SUSAN
No. (to David 1) Do you see how weird
this is?

David 2 approaches.

DAVID 2
(to Susan) Is that your son in the car?

SUSAN
Yes.

DAVID 2
I'm going to introduce myself.

SUSAN
I wish you wouldn't...

But before she can stop him, David 2 crosses the road to
the car.

DAVID 1
It's not weird. He's willing to go by
Dave. You know, he's a pretty good guy.
A little enthusiastic about the church.
Oh look, that's his wife. Wave.

SUSAN'S POV - DAVID 2'S WIFE

A very attractive woman in a tight, low-cut T-shirt that
has a picture of Jesus on it waves from across the park.

SUSAN
Well, nothing says I love Jesus more than
an industrial strength push-up bra. (to
her brother) What is happening here?

DAVID 1
I'm getting to know my only brother.
It's kind of cool.
(MORE)

DAVID 1 (CONT'D)
 And he's not going to make me wear a mini-skirt and play Partridge Family.

SUSAN
 That was a long time ago.

DAVID 1
 Yeah, and I'm still talkin' about it in therapy. Oh, they're going to start the sack race. Come on.

David 1 grabs her arm and heads toward the picnic.

EXT. PARK/CHURCH PICNIC - LATER THAT DAY

Susan is sitting with her son at a long table with a plate of food in front of her. She isn't eating. She is surrounded by women from the church; one of them is David 2's wife, Willow.

WILLOW
 David and I have only lived in your town for a month, but what a great community! Tomorrow our Christian improv group meets. You should come.

ANOTHER WOMAN
 Tell her about the Core Class.

SUSAN
 I'm not... I'm Catholic. We don't do core or fundamentalism.

WILLOW
 No, silly. Core. Abs. We kick it big time to a Christian funk band.

SUSAN
 When do you have time to pray?

David 2 approaches with a plate of food and sits.

DAVID 2
 This is gonna be fun.

SUSAN
 When?

DAVID 2
 I mean all of us living here. It's good for Greg to be with Dad all the time.
 (MORE)

DAVID 2 (CONT'D)

That way he's accountable to someone, has to take his vitamins, has to do his exercises for his hip dysplasia. I'm sure you've only heard of dogs getting hip dysplasia but --

David 1 sits down.

SUSAN

What is he talking about?

DAVID 1

The Anemic Baby is moving into Dad's place since the other place is going on the market.

SUSAN

I thought he was in school.

DAVID 2

So did I. I guess he got kicked out again. I am really glad Judith pushed Dad a little. He needs a little kick in the butt.

DAVID 1

Don't we all, brother.

David 1 and David 2 bump fists as Susan looks on in repulsed astonishment.

EXT. DAD'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

This is a stark contrast to the other house. It is a gracious Victorian, with a beautiful front porch, flower boxes. It sits in a lovely neighborhood on a big lot. Judith and Susan are walking up the walk.

JUDITH

I still can't believe you didn't say anything.

SUSAN

What was I supposed to say? I was surrounded by their whole church and they were all smiling. Did you know there's such a thing as Christian sit-ups?

JUDITH

You should have told the other David how scandalous it is for the illegitimate family to move into the house we grew up in. Now I have to take care of it.

They are at the front door.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Judith and Susan enter. Irene is there unpacking boxes.

JUDITH

Dad!!

IRENE

Oh, hi.

JUDITH

Dad!! We have to talk!! (to Irene)
What is all this stuff?

IRENE

Well I'm storing some things here that
were at Dad's other house.

SUSAN

Are those cages?

IRENE

I'm a member of the Wisconsin Amateur
Disabled Animal Rescue Society. Be
careful, that cage has a shrew in it.

SUSAN

A shrew?

IRENE

They're very smart. They can find lost
children.

SUSAN

I disagree.

David Sr. enters from the kitchen with a box.

DAVID SR.

Did I hear Judith? There's the brains
behind it. This was a wonderful idea,
selling the other house. Now we will all
be closer.

JUDITH

Dad, I didn't mean for --

DAVID SR.

I was muddled before. I see it clearly
now. One house will unite us.

SUSAN
(re box) What are you doing with that?

IRENE
Packing them up.

SUSAN
Those are our Madame Alexander dolls.

IRENE
What, do you still play with them?

SUSAN
This is the Dutch Girl.

IRENE
(looking at the doll) I had the Dutch
Girl. Where's the bonnet?

SUSAN
I took it off.

IRENE
So did I. I hated the bonnet.

SUSAN
(disturbed by the similarity) I hated
the bonnet, too.

They stare at each other in a moment of recognition, then
Susan snaps.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Give her to me. I baby sat a weird kid
who was the same age as me to buy her.

Judith sees two old-fashioned bridal portraits on the
piano. The portraits are almost identical in pose; only
the gowns and brides are different.

JUDITH
Dad, what's this?

DAVID SR.
Well, they wanted a picture of their
mother and I would never remove your
mother...

The front door opens and in come David 1 and David 2,
fresh from shooting baskets. They are laughing.

DAVID 1
Hey, the gang's all here.

JUDITH

David, what are you doing? We need to keep our family together. We engage only in what I'm calling "necessary fraternization". Now, I know the other house is being sold.

DAVID 2

Which was your idea.

DAVID SR.

I don't want to keep the families separate.

JUDITH

Dad, don't you think it's inappropriate to have the son from your other family living in the house we grew up in? The Anemic Baby needs to be in school or in an apartment. Maybe he needs a job.

IRENE

What about me? I need a place to stay.

SUSAN

(to David Sr.) They both live with you? What kind of losers were you breeding up there?

IRENE

At least I didn't marry a gay guy.

SUSAN

Who told you that?

David 1 looks away awkwardly.

JUDITH

At least Susan has her own home.

IRENE

I had my own place, but I moved out after my boyfriend was hurt in a meth lab explosion, thank you very much.

JUDITH

Is he a cop?

IRENE

No. But he coulda been if they didn't have that ridiculous height requirement. (with disdain) Five-five. Do they want to be the police or a basketball team?

JUDITH

Okay. Let's talk about a two bedroom apartment. And while we're at it, let's sort all the particulars out. Now, I have drawn up some ground rules.

Judith starts passing out papers.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

These look a little like contracts, but they're just mock ups. I'm calling it a "protocol document".

David 1 and David 2 share a look.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

(to the Davids) Did you two just share a look? (to David 1) Who's team are you on?

DAVID 1

You gave me Old Spice for Christmas. I'm a free agent.

DAVID SR.

Judith, put those papers away.

Susan has been looking around the room.

SUSAN

All the boxes are from my room. Is the Allergic Baby going to be sleeping in my cowboy bed?

IRENE

Anemic!

SUSAN

Dad!

Susan starts up the stairs.

DAVID SR.

Where are you going?

SUSAN

I'm taking my bed.

DAVID SR.

Susan, now stop it. The boy is asleep.

JUDITH
Susan, it's okay. Furniture is in the
protocol document.

Irene follows Susan up the stairs.

INT. SUSAN'S OLD BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER

Susan and Irene open the door. They look into the
darkened room. Susan turns to Irene.

SUSAN
I'm not touching him. Wake him up.

Irene goes to the bed.

IRENE
Greggie. Greggie.

The Anemic Baby is not moving.

IRENE (CONT'D)
Oh my god. (yelling down the stairs)
Daddy, did you check his glucose litmus
strip before his nap?

EXT. SMALL TOWN STREET - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: The flashing Mars light on the roof of an
ambulance as it speeds down the street.

INT. EMERGENCY - TWO HOURS LATER

David 1, David 2, Irene, Susan, Judith, and David Sr. are
waiting. The scene is similar to the first scene. Irene
is sitting between Judith and Susan; Irene is weeping.

Judith attempts awkwardly to comfort her.

JUDITH
I'm sure he'll be okay.

IRENE
It's not just that. It's everything. My
life is a disaster.

A Doctor enters, pushing the Anemic Baby in a wheelchair.
The Baby is slurping a huge Big Gulp. The family gathers
around.

DOCTOR

Well, never seen anything like it. Your son was sleeping so deeply that his heart rate was down to twenty beats per minute. We usually only see that in cases of hypothermia. I suppose with extreme inertia, it's possible. We may be looking at the most relaxed human being on the planet.

The Doctor exits.

DAVID SR.

(to the others) That's great. Isn't that great?

No one responds.

DAVID SR. (CONT'D)

Come on. We can't be glum now. We're turning a corner. We're pulling together.

No response from the group.

DAVID SR. (CONT'D)

Okay, you know what? Let me have it. Give it to me, rough me up and then it will be all over. This is what the alcoholic community calls bottoming out. Everybody open up.

SUSAN

I'm not opening up. F--k that!

Another person in the ER is offended by Susan's language.

DAVID SR.

Alright, missy. That's quite enough. We all know that you're angry. Probably you're all angry.

DAVID 1

I'm not angry.

JUDITH

I am.

DAVID SR.

Good, there. Don't we feel better?

No response. The Person in the waiting room pipes up.

PERSON

I treated my father with more respect.

SUSAN

Really? Was your father a bigamist who had two secret families for decades?

PERSON

(to David Sr.) That's disgusting.

JUDITH

Hey, hey, you stay out of it. Any of us can call him disgusting -- we're family.

DAVID SR.

Thank you, Judith. See, that's what I'm talking about. Us pulling together. Like with Greg and Irene. I know it's awkward to have them in the old house, but that's how it has to be. I'm selling the other one, so they move in. Period.

JUDITH

(sarcastically) Great.

DAVID SR.

I can't afford two houses, you said it yourself. Now, this whole family is important to me. It may not be important to all of you, yet, but I'm going to bring us together, come hell or high water.

Just then two Nurses enter. They see David Sr. and their eyes sparkle.

NURSE 1

There he is.

NURSE 2

The silver fox.

They giggle and exit. David Sr. goes to the door.

DAVID SR.

(calling after them) Hey, I'm a nice normal guy. For godssakes, I'm journaling!

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

David Sr. is at the counter ordering.

CAMERA PANS THE SHOP TO REVEAL - ALL THE SIBLINGS SITTING AT VARIOUS TABLES IN THE ICE CREAM SHOP.

David 1, David 2, Greg, Susan, and her son Jared are at a table.

DAVID 2

The church has a great youth group for your son.

SUSAN

(skeptically) Really? Your church is open to an agnostic thirteen year old with a gay dad?

AT ANOTHER TABLE - Irene and Judith sit in an awkward silence. After a moment, Judith speaks. This isn't easy for her to say.

JUDITH

So Dad says you may be interested in real estate?

BACK AT THE COUNTER - David Sr. hands a chocolate cone to Susan then turns to the teenage ice cream server.

DAVID SR.

(to server) And Irene likes mint chocolate chip. (leaning in) And if you put sprinkles on Susan's chocolate cone, you better put them on this one or I'll never hear the end of it.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW